



Wednesday 26 July 2023

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# Bread for the World

## *An Informal Eucharist*

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Introit O God, you search me and you know me *Bernadette Farrell*

Welcome and Opening Prayers *Revd Angela Sheard*

Creator God,  
Come to us, in the difference of every life gathered  
Come to us in song  
Come to us in word  
Come to us in stillness and silence  
Come to us in our care for one another  
Come to us in bread and wine  
Come to us in flesh and blood  
Reach out across time  
Be present in all time.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Come Jesus, be our guest,  
Stay with us for day is ending.  
With friend, with stranger,  
With young and old,  
With the lost and found  
Be among us tonight  
Our guest our host  
The one who says all – all are welcome here.**

Opening Hymn

- 1** **Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.**
- 2** **Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.**

*continued...*

**3 Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.**

**4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.**

*Love Maria Willis (nee Whitcomb) (1824-1908), Samuel Longfellow (1819-1892)*

## Prayers of Forgiveness

God longs to be with us. But we often live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Because the world is beautiful but beauty is easily destroyed, we need you.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we often abandon you and turn away and walk past and are afraid and countless times betray you but you love us to the end and win a victory over all hatred, we need you.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have your message to proclaim, because we have your kingdom to build, because there are so many in need of your love, because we have your life to live.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

And Jesus said "Your sins are forgiven"

In the name of the Father who created you and waits to welcome you home, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings the healing of forgiveness and calls you to do the same, you have been set free.

*All* **Amen.**

## Words on the Edge

A reading by Henri J. M. Nouwen, *Sabbatical Journey: The Diary of his Final Year*, p.6

So, what about my life of prayer? Do I like to pray? Do I want to pray? Do I spend time praying? Frankly, the answer is no to all three questions. After sixty-three years of life and thirty-eight years of priesthood my prayer seems dead as a rock. I remember fondly my teenage years where I could hardly keep away from church ... Prayer was so intimate and so satisfying ... During the years that followed I have paid much attention to prayer, and guiding many people on their spiritual journeys... Are the darkness and dryness of my prayer now signs of God's absence, or are they signs of a presence deeper and wider than my senses can contain? Is the death of my prayer the end of my intimacy with God or the beginning of a new communion, beyond words, emotions and bodily sensations?

My prayer surely is, but not necessarily the Spirit's prayer in me. Maybe the time has come to let go of *my* prayer, *my* effort to be close to God, *my* way of being in communion with the Divine, and to allow the Spirit of God to blow freely in me... I trust that it is not just I who have to do the work. The Spirit of God joins my spirit and will guide me.

Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Reflection** From Head to Heart - Seeking a rhythm of prayer  
Revd Catherine Duce

Anthem Give thanks with a grateful heart *Henry Smith arr. Larson*

## Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayer of Concern

Prayer of Hope

*Each prayer ends with 'We pray to you'*

## Prayer Chant O Lord, hear my Prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
when I call ans - wer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O  
Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

## Sharing of the Peace

God of eternal peace, who offers the gift of peace and whose children are the peacemakers; pour your peace into our hearts, that conflict and anger may cease. Peace is the gift of the Risen Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

*Let us offer each other a sign of that peace*

## Gathering Hymn

- 1 Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,  
breathe new life into my willing soul.  
Bring the presence of the risen Lord  
to renew my heart and make me whole.  
Cause your word to come alive in me;  
give me faith for what I cannot see;  
give me passion for your purity;  
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.**
- 2 Holy Spirit, come abide within,  
may your joy be seen in all I do.  
Love enough to cover every sin  
in each thought and deed and attitude:  
kindness to the greatest and the least,  
gentleness that sows the path of peace.  
Turn my strivings into works of grace;  
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.**
- 3 Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,  
giving life to all that God has made,  
show your power once again on earth,  
cause your church to hunger for your ways.  
May the fragrance of our prayers arise;  
lead us on the road of sacrifice,  
that in unity the face of Christ  
may be clear for all the world to see.**

*Keith Getty (b. 1974) and Stuart Townend (b. 1963)*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*Together we pray:*

*All* **Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill each one of us with your love from on high. Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast at your table with all your saints.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in our first language the prayer our Saviour taught us:

*All*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven, is broken for the life of the world. The gifts of God for the people of God.

*All* **Jesus Bread of Life, Bread which is broken, Bread for the world.**

Communion Anthem   Bread for the world   *Bernadette Farrell*

## Prayer after Communion

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Word for us to speak, You are the Truth for us to tell; You are the Light for us to light in the darkness, You are the Bread of Life for us to share.**

## Notices

## Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1** Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Give me joy in my heart, I pray;  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
Keep me praising till the break of day.  
*Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna!*  
*Sing hosanna to the King of kings,*  
*Sing hosanna! Sing Hosanna!*  
*Sing hosanna to the King.*
- 2** Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,  
Keep me loving till the break of day.  
*Chorus*
- 3** Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Give me love in my heart, I pray;  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
Keep me serving till the break of day.  
*Chorus*

*Author unknown, adapted by A Sevison and others*

## Blessing

Go simply, lightly, gently

Go with obedience

Go with love

And the blessing of Almighty God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessing Anthem    A Clare Benediction    *John Rutter*

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**Thank you.**

Pianist: Polina Sosnina Soloist: Sally Carr

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